

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A method for maintaining inventory records of products being sold, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

providing inventory records corresponding to a plurality of products for sale;  
processing a purchase transaction for a first product of said plurality of products;  
generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction;  
storing using a first read/write device to write said electronic receipt [[on]] to a

removable storage medium;

at a different time or place, reading using a second read/write device that is different from said first read/write device to read said electronic receipt from said removable storage medium;

validating said electronic receipt; and

in response to validating said electronic receipt,

providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of said first product and

updating an inventory record corresponding to said first product to reflect the delivery of said first product.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein said step of validating said electronic receipt further comprises inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of said electronic receipt.

5.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for maintaining inventory records for a plurality of items for sale, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for processing a purchase transaction;

second instructions for generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction;

third instructions for storing said electronic receipt on a removable storage medium;  
fourth instructions for reading said electronic receipt on the removable storage medium;  
fifth instructions for validating said electronic receipt; and  
sixth instructions for providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of said first item  
in response to validating said electronic receipt,

seventh instructions for updating an inventory record corresponding to said first item in  
response to validating the electronic receipt.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 27 wherein said  
instructions for validating the electronic receipt further comprise instructions for inspecting a  
digital signature to verify the integrity of said electronic receipt.

29.-46. (Canceled)